F1785
C32

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 016 102 669 4

F 1785
.C32
Copy 1

MEMORANDUM

OF THE

WRONGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH, SINCE 1868, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IN THE ISLAND OF CUBA HAVE DONE TO THE PERSON, FAMILY AND PROPERTY OF

INOCENCIO CASANOVA,

A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NUEVA YORK:
IMPRESO POR MACDONALD & PALMER, 733 BROADWAY.
1871.

NGRESS

F1785
.C32

2-20373

MEMORANDUM

Of the wrongs and acts of violence, which since 1868, *the Spanish Government in the Island of Cuba, have done to the person, family and property of Mr. Inocencio Casanova, a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.*

1. Mr. I. Casanova became a regular citizen of the United States in 1859, when there was no rebellion in Cuba, a fact which by itself shows, that that event had no influence upon his change of nationality, but that it was an act of his own free will, prompted rather by his republican sentiments and by his opposition to monarchical institutions.

2. But while in Cuba, Mr. Inocencio Casanova always tried to do his duty as an orderly, law-abiding citizen, and to respect the powers of the land there, without, however, betraying his inborn republican principles; on the contrary, he always stood by them on legal grounds; since he endeavored, whenever the occasion would occur, to hasten the abolition of slavery in the land, although he was the master of many slaves, whose joint value did not come short of half a million of dollars. This latter holy work he early began by declaring free all new-born slaves in his own plantations. About this time, besides, he devised a plan for the gradual emancipation of all the slaves in the whole Island. Such a plan he in time submitted to the Captain General, Serrano, whose liberal views on this point are well known, and he agreed

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS U.S.OF A.

F 5362
'01

with Mr. Casanova; but the slave-traders, who have the control of political and civil affairs in Cuba, soon got wind of the matter, became alarmed and began to urge a fierce war on Mr. Casanova, his family and property. In this relentless persecution, which has had no end or respite, at least since the revolution broke out in Cuba, the Spanish government at last took a principal part. One act of violence has followed another, in spite of international treaties and without any regard for the rights of the citizens of a friendly nation, never wanting in forbearance for the many wrongs to its own citizens, and for the actual butcheries, which, almost in sight of its shores the Spaniards have been practising upon a people whose only crime is to wish to unite their destinies to, or assimilate them to the institutions of this great American Republic.

3. Mr. Casanova, who owns in Cuba large estates, possesses also in this country no less valuable ones, long since established a system of life in accord with these premises, and he used to spend the summers in the United States and the winters in Cuba. By this means he was enabled to avoid the inconveniences of the climate in both countries, and to attend personally to his estates here and there, being in both of them at the time most needed. With the winter in Cuba came the season for gathering the sugar crops and for making contracts for molasses in Cardenas, where he owns one of the most capacious and reputed warehouses in the whole town. But all his thriving business has come to ruin and nothing with the hatred and persecution of the Spanish government. By being compelled to leave the Island of Cuba, Mr. Casanova had to relinquish the management of his estates and of his valuable interests into mercenary hands, who never would take as good a care of them as he did. In November of 1868, Mr. Casanova, along with his wife, left New York for Cuba as he was in the habit of doing before winter, and no later than the 10th day of December of the same year, by order of the then Captain General, Lersundi, was issued the first warrant for the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Casanova and his sons. The execution of this warrant was confided to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colon district, Mr. Casanova's principal sugar plantation named

Armonia, being situated there, and because they believed he was gone there with all his family. But it happened that there was at the time only his son Mr. Joseph and his lady, both of them American citizens. About forty Spanish volunteers as well as civil guardsmen, all armed to the teeth, went to the estate to execute the warrant, they got mad and committed every sort of outrage and insulted the lady, because they could neither find in the house Mr. Casanova or any of his children, and left saying that they would return and shoot down every one they met there.

4. On hearing of this in Havana, Mr. Casanova, not knowing that his name was included in the warrant, through the American Consul remonstrated against the outrages done in his estate by the Spanish volunteers, and of the persecution of which his son Joseph was the object, and asked for a safe conduct, so that he might fetch him and present him, since Mr. Casanova was sure he had committed no offence against the Government. The safe conduct was granted, and of all these things must be a record in the American Consulate. On the 19th of December, Mr. Casanova started for his estate Armonia, in quest of his son, Mr. Joseph. He was not to be found at home, and Mrs. J. N. Casanova, would not reveal where her husband was concealed, because she was much frightened and did not think the safe conduct plain enough to protect the person of her husband against the ferocity of the Spanish volunteers, who were bent upon having his blood. This being the case, Mr. Casanova resolved to return to Havana and look for a better official document that might shield the life of his son, but on the same day of his arrival at the estate Armonia, the Captain of Partido, or Commissary of Police, followed by several civil guards, appeared there and told Mr. Casanova that he was his prisoner. Mr. Casanova, though greatly surprised, told the Commissary of Police that he was ready to obey, but that he wanted to know by whom and when the warrant was issued. And he was told that the warrant was issued by the Captain General himself on the 10th of December. But on the Commissary of Police being shown the safe conduct already mentioned, which the Captain General had given to Mr. Casanova, on the 19th of December, so that he might safely fetch his son and take him to

Havana, it was plainly proven that if the Captain General ever wished or ordered the imprisonment of Mr. Casanova, Sr., he had since changed his mind and the warrant was null and void. However, the Commissary of Police did not let Mr. Casanova free, but on condition that he should go right away and see himself the Lieutenant-Governor at the town of Colon. Mr. Casanova did as he was told. That officer was easily convinced that there was no cause for Mr. Casanova being deprived of his liberty, dismissed the case and allowed him to go free.

5. Again, on the 28th or 29th of December, through the American Consul, Mr. Casanova appealed in writing to the Captain General, stating to him how the case of his son Mr. Joseph stood, and requested another safe conduct more plain and distinct which might give satisfaction to Mrs. J. N. Casanova, and prove a sure guarantee to Mr. Casanova, Jr's., personal safety. The Captain General readily granted the new safe conduct in which Mr. Casanova was empowered to go after his son Mr. Joseph and bring him safely to Havana without any interference or hindrance from the Governors, Commissaries of Police, civil or rural guards, or any other civil or military officers. It is well to state here, that the Captain General even now did not remember nor gave a hint that he had not forgotten the warrant issued by him on the 10th of December, with which he ordered the arrest of Mr. Casanova and all his sons. And it should be also stated that in the American Consulate, at Havana, the records of all these papers and events must be found.

6. With the new safe conduct Mr. Casanova started again for his sugar plantation *Armonia*, and that document being satisfactory to Mrs. J. N. Casanova, she revealed the hiding place of her husband, who along with his father returned soon after to Havana by railroad.

7. On the day after their arrival at Havana, in company with the American Consul, they both went to see the Captain General at his palace in the city. In the long talk they had, the Captain General frankly stated, before the American Consul, that all the troubles which Messrs. Casanova had encountered for the few days past, had been occasioned by false informations received by

the government. The Captain General said he was sorry for what had happened, and to amend matters he added that he would allow Mr. Casanova, Jr., to go free and to bear arms for his own defence and that of his plantation. This pleasant interview took place on a Saturday afternoon, and it was agreed that Messrs. Casanova should call again on Monday next in order to take the written permit here mentioned. After which they took leave of the Captain General and left the palace.

8. But on the same Saturday evening Mr. Casanova received the newspaper *La Aurora*, Matanzas, where under date of the 24th inst., was printed an edict or summons commanding Mr. Joseph Casanova to appear there and give himself up within nine days of the above date, to answer the charge of disloyalty of which he was accused before a military standing commission.

9. There was enough in such a proceeding to make any calm man mad. Anyway, it will appear very strange and annoying that the Captain General, the Chief Magistrate of the Island, the highest civil and military ruler of the province, should have given two safe conducts to Mr. I. Casanova, one on the 18th, another on the 28th or 29th of December, and that on the 24th of the same month, some subordinates of his should dare to call to account that very young man for an imaginary offence. Mr. Casanova with his son at once took the railroad for Matanzas, sought and obtained an interview with the Governor there, in company with the American Consul, explained everything to that officer and had the summons recalled which commanded Mr. Casanova, Jr., to appear before the military commission sitting there.

10. On the appointed day, Mr. Casanova and his son presented themselves to the Political Secretary in order to get the promised permit to carry arms in the rural estate. But on his arrival at the office he was told that the new Captain General was in port and would take cognizance of Mr. Casanova, Jr's., case, and undoubtedly would issue the permit asked for and promised by the departing Captain General. So it was done three or four days after, and then Mr. Casanova, Jr., could return to the sugar plantation *Armonia*, of which he was the superintendent. Thus ended the first persecution that Mr. Casanova, his family and

property suffered at the hands of the Spanish Government in Cuba.

11. On the 9th of January, 1869, General Dulce, then Captain General of Cuba, by proclamation conceded a free press to the Cubans. Taking advantage of it, Mr. Raphael, the youngest son of Mr. Casanova, commenced the publication of a small weekly sheet. This gave umbrage to General Dulce, who in those dreams of the boy, found cause or pretext for spiting the father; so he ordered the periodical to be stopped and its editor imprisoned and tried for violation of the law of the press.

12. General Dulce, on the 13th of February, withdrew his amnesty proclamation and freedom for the press, and declared that all persons guilty of violating the press laws, as well as all political prisoners *in future* would be tried by court martial. As it has been stated, the imprisonment of young Casanova took place long before the issue of the above decree, and accordingly his case was in the hands of a civil magistrate or *Alcalde Mayor*, who on investigating the matter failed to find the young man guilty and dismissed the case. But after promising Mr. Casanova that he (the civil magistrate) would release the young man, refused to do it, giving as a reason for changing his mind, that the Captain General had called in the case.

13. Mr. Casanova, not knowing the cause of such an arbitrary change, called upon the Political Secretary, and to his great surprise he learned that General Dulce, by special decree, had ordered the dismissed case of the younger Casanova to be submitted for trial to the court martial just created by the proclamation of the 13th of February. If there was a proof wanting that Mr. Casanova, his family and interests would find neither protection or guarantee under the Spanish Government in Cuba any longer, that determination of the Captain General might dispel all doubts he entertained on this point. It was plain enough that Gen. Dulce had ignored the dispositions of his own decree in order to prolong the imprisonment of young Casanova and then look for some offence of his and have him punished.

14. The case of young Casanova was accordingly taken to the court martial and tried in the summary way that is customary in

such tribunals in Cuba. But even the military judges or rather enemies of the Creoles, failed to find any fault with young Casanova, declared him not guilty and ordered his release. In compliance with the order of the court martial, the Attorney General, along with Mr. Casanova, went to the city prison to have the young man released; but they were told there that General Dulce had disposed otherwise and taken cognizance of the prisoner's case, as Captain General of the land and he could not consequently be set free. And so matters stood.

15. A few days after this, young Casanova was taken very sick with small pox, in the public jail, whereupon his father, by writing, asked permission of the Captain General to have his son carried home and cared for, as there was no convenience in the prison to attend and nurse him properly. Of course, Mr. Casanova offered any bail the government might require, and return the young man to prison as soon as he was pronounced out of danger. But no answer would come from the Government for several days, the prisoner grew worse and worse, and Mr. Casanova in his distress solicited the interference of several persons of high position and good understanding with General Dulce. It was of no avail. To the entreaties of all, that magnanimous ruler answered, "Well, let the young man die where he is." And by order of General Dulce, against the wishes and solicitations of Mr. Casanova, sent the prisoner, as a common felon, to the hospital of the chain-gang, which is located in the upper part of the same jail. There, away from the cares of his mother and sisters, young Casanova went through his dreadful illness and eventually recovered, thanks to the money freely spent by Mr. Casanova in paying for medicines and nursing. Soon after, the prisoner was remanded to his solitary cell, where he was kept over three months, until, he being under age, was claimed as an American citizen, on account of his father's nationality, and restored to liberty.

16. From the 22d to the 23d of January of 1869, unheard of scenes of tumult and riot took place at the Villanueva theatre and at the Louvre coffee house. The Spanish volunteers there began to make use of the arms put into their hands by Captain General Lersundi, shooting down, like dogs, either Cubans or foreigners

whom they happened to meet in the streets, and who would not promptly answer the challenge of "Long live Spain!" with which they accosted every passer by. So several persons were wantonly killed, amongst others, Mr. Cohner, a quiet and harmless American citizen, well-known and esteemed in Havana. This alarmed Mr Casanova, who, finding there was no personal security even for foreigners in the capital of the Great Antille, drew up an energetic protest on the 24th, and got it signed by all American citizens at the time in the city. A copy of the protest was transmitted to the Captain General, through the American Consul, and another one sent to the State Department at Washington. As it is to be supposed, no sooner was this protest presented and known where it came from and who its originator was, than the hatred with which Mr. Casanova was looked upon by the Spanish Government increased many fold, and it was resolved amongst the Spanish officers to get rid of the daring foreigner by all means.

17. Early in February of 1869, a second warrant of arrest was issued against Mr. Casanova, but as soon as he heard of it, called in person upon the Captain General Don Domingo Dulce, and asked of him an interview, which was readily granted. Mr. Casanova commenced by saying that upon hearing of the warrant he came to deliver himself up, as it behooved a man of his position and responsibility; that he thought the issue of such warrants by the Government entirely unnecessary, for the simple reason that he was a man of large means and well-known everywhere in the country and would never flee from justice as a common criminal, on the contrary they could have his person whenever wanted and easily find him at his house. That as such he was a great deal more interested in the peace and tranquility of the country where he had amassed by economy and toil a large fortune, than the Captain General himself, since the latter high functionary might resign or be relieved at any time of his command and leave the country as he came to rule it, without sustaining any loss to himself of character or of means. This plain talk of Mr. Casanova rather pleased the Captain General than otherwise, who told him that no warrant had been issued to his (the C G's.) knowledge against Mr. Casanova by his authority; that perhaps it

was issued by the City Governor, and that he (Dulce) would inquire. So he sent on the spot for the City Governor. In the meantime the latter functionary came, General Dulce spoke at length on the political situation of the country, and in the course of the conversation asked of Mr. Casanova which way his sons would go in the question at issue. As a man of honor and veracity, Mr. Casanova answered frankly to General Dulce, "that his sons, five in number, Creoles by birth, and educated on the modern idea of untrammeled self-governments, were heart and soul for the liberty of their own country, but that they would not be conspirators against the established government of the Island, unless all justice and freedom should be denied them." The appearance of the City Governor cut short this conversation and General Dulce put to him the question about the warrant of arrest above spoken of. The City Governor readily answered that in effect he had caused the issue of such a warrant of arrest against Mr. Casanova the previous day, but that he had already had it withdrawn. Upon hearing which Mr. Casanova could not restrain himself and spoke as follows to the Captain General. He said that now more than ever he felt the insecurity with which the people in Cuba lived, because it was a real fact that any man, his social position and his character notwithstanding, might be arrested every day and thrown in a common jail, without a warning or previous charge, the order being carried out or recalled according as the man happens to be known or not by the authorities of the land. In short, said Mr. Casanova, I feel like a man ready to leave the country and allow my property and business go to naught and ruin. Both the Captain General and City Governor, tried their best in order to calm Mr. Casanova's fears, and anyhow they tranquilized him by promising not to disturb him, since they knew him better, but that they expected Mr. Casanova would report to them in case any subaltern might give him cause for complaint.

18. They let Mr. Casanova, Sr., alone for a while, it is true, but a fresh persecution against Mr. Casanova, Jr., was soon after commenced. When Mr. Joseph least expected, several rural guards and Spanish volunteers, all of them armed with loaded guns, made suddenly their appearance about evening in the sugar

plantation *Armonia*. Their first step was to surround the mill-house, then they went after the engineer, dragged him out of his bed and shot him dead on the spot. No inquiry was afterward instituted on this real murder, for such is the way they kill people in Cuba. The engineer thus assasinated, was a Cuban, and left behind him a wife and four children all dependent for food upon his daily work.

19. Mr. Casanova, Jr., after whom the rural guards also came, while in bed heard the report of fire arms, guessed what was the matter, got out of the house as best he could, and made his escape to the town of Bemba, near by, on horseback. There he took the railroad for Havana, saw the American Consul at his office and in his company went on board the flagship of Admiral Hoff, happily at the time in port, seeking for a refuge. He did not feel himself safe on land.

20. Mr. Joseph Casanova, here mentioned, is an American citizen, and once performed the duties of Consul for the United States in Guayaquil, Ecuador. On his arrival at Washington he lodged a complaint and formal protest against the Spanish Government in Cuba, for the personal outrages and damages done to his property and business which he was obliged to leave behind in order to save life. But the Spaniards not content with the shooting of the engineer and of scaring away the superintendent of the sugar plantation, believing him yet there concealed somewhere, late in the night there came a band of rural guards and Spanish volunteers, now for the fourth time. As a *ruse de guerre* they must have set fire to one of the buildings of the Ingenio, in which the stalk of the sugar cane once ground and dried is kept, and then rang the bell of the estate, because when most of the slaves and employees came out, the volunteers with their muskets prepared, instead of giving help to put out the fire, went from one to another of all new comers looking into their faces by the light of the house in flames in order to see whether the superintendent of the estate happened to be there or not. Thus the putting out of the fire was prevented, the building was burned down and proved a total loss. In this wise the second persecution which Mr. Joseph Casanova suffered at the hands of the Spanish Government, terminated.

21. This brings us to the last part of February of 1869, when the other sons of Mr. Casanova, Messrs. Manuel, Pedro and Ricardo, seeing how their brother had shared under the brutal power of the Spanish volunteers, thought the time was come for their getting out of danger, no matter what this step might cost them. All of these gentlemen were at the time co-partners in a commission merchant house, which they had established in Cardenas and was doing a large and profitable business under the name of Casanova Brothers. The capital of the firm belonged to Mr. Casanova, father, who represented in the business his younger sons Ricardo and Rafael, whilst the older sons, Manuel, Joseph and Pedro, were the managers of the whole concern. Of course, determined to leave the country, Messrs. Manuel, Pedro and Ricardo, as they could not reasonably expect that their persons would be more respected than those of their father and two brothers had been, were compelled to suspend business, and thus to every purpose break their house and undergo a great loss. However, this terrible conclusion reached, they did not wish to quit the Island in a stealthily way, so they asked for their passports, which the Spanish Government was not backward in granting to them, since the policy at the time was to open wide the door to all Creoles who wanted to go out of the Island of Cuba. Their pecuniary loss is incalculable, but they were not shot down, or garroted, or transported to Africa, as so many of their countrymen have been.

22. Mr. Manuel, at the instance of his two other brothers, took his passport, and notwithstanding this, he has lately been tried and sentenced to death by a court martial, sitting at Havana. Mr M. Casanova left the Island of his own accord. He was guilty of no offence against the Spanish Government, nor had he been before arrested or tried for any crime. How is it, then, that they waited for him to go away from the country, in order to submit him to a military tribunal, and pass such a terrible judgment upon him? Why? This proceeding is a high handed one, and arbitrary in every respect. It plainly appears, then, that as the Spanish Government could not have Mr. Manuel Casanova's blood, they now want his money, since they have made a law down in Cuba to the effect, that all goods, personal or real property, belonging to

a man upon whom sentence of death for disloyalty is passed, legally revert to the Government.

23. Mr Casanova's father, as it has been stated, represented two-fifths of the stock, in the firm of Casanova Brothers, Cardenas, and a half of it when Mr. Manuel Casanova, his eldest son, retired from the firm in April of 1869. But what is the use of keeping up the partnership when the managers are gone, the business paralized, and losses instead of profits are reaped? The losses and damages to the firm of Casanova Brothers may be calculated upon, considering the amount of the stock, which did not come short of two million of dollars, and the extent of the business generally done there. No man can justly deny the perfect right Mr. Casanova has in protesting once and again against the Spanish Government, and in making a large claim until he should obtain complete satisfaction and sufficient indemnity for the losses and damages he has suffered at the hands of the Cuban authorities. But Mr. Casanova would not like to be understood that he bears any ill will to the Spanish nation, nor to the Spaniards in general, as he esteems the former, and has many good friends among the latter. He complains of the authorities in the Island of Cuba, who have caused all the troubles and sufferings of which Mr. Casanova, his family, and property, have been the victims for these three long years past.

24. On the 31st of March, 1869, the third warrant of arrest was issued against Mr. Casanova, the only male member of the whole family that remained at liberty on the Island of Cuba at the time. Mr. Casanova was not advised in time of the warrant of arrest, otherwise he would have reported himself, and consequently he was arrested late in the night in his own house, taken to the common jail, and there confined in a solitary cell incommunicated. According to the entry upon the books at the prison, his imprisonment was caused by direct order from the Captain-General, thus showing that, as yet, there was no definite charge for such a rash proceeding. Of this fact Mr. Casanova got the evidence, and it is filed in the State Department at Washington. After keeping him in prison over twenty-four hours, it seems that they found a charge to lay at Mr. Casanova's door, because until then, he was not

handed to the Judge-Advocate of the Court of Admiralty, who was at the time investigating the case of the seizure of the steamboat El Comanditario, by some persons unknown to the Government.

25. Previous to his last imprisonment, fearing Mr Casanova to be caught at any time, and thrown into an unknown dungeon, away from his family and friends, he had prepared a paper in which he asked for the protection of the American Government. That paper he put into the hands of his wife, telling her to fill up the date, which was left in blank, and take it to the American Consul for action. This case, anticipated by Mr. Casanova, came to pass on the 1st of April 1869. The American Consul, in company with Admiral Hoff, immediately called upon the Captain-General. They could not see his Excellency, but saw the Political Secretary, who, upon inquiry, told them that Mr. Casanova was imprisoned by special order from the Captain-General, that his case was to be quickly considered, and that a full copy of the proceeding would be furnished them the next day, for reporting to Washington. But far from keeping his promise, the Political Secretary the next day wrote a letter to Admiral Hoff, in which he stated that Mr. Casanova's case had been referred to the Court of Admiralty, in pursuance of a claim of the Judge-Advocate, and he (the Secretary) would call the attention of the American Government upon the man Casanova, because that was not the first time he had baffled the inquiries of the courts of law by flight. But the Political Secretary fails to mention when and where Mr. Casanova had fled from justice, or been arrested, and his assertion is a libellous charge.

26. The process dragged along for twenty-three days, and in all this time Mr. Casanova was examined three times only, always in the absence of the American Consul, notwithstanding Mr. Casanova's earnest solicitations to have him present. At last, not finding cause for longer detention, and the American Government pressing for his discharge, Mr. Casanova was released from durance. In order to show how foreigners are cheated out of their rights, and wilfully wronged by the Spanish Government in Cuba, it is proper to state here that—Mr. Casanova was arrested by special order from the Captain-General, was indicted before the

Court of Admiralty, and discharged by the City Governor, the three having separate and independent jurisdiction; and it is to be supposed that had not the American Government interfered in behalf of Mr Casanova, he would have been tried by a court martial, and shot.

Once free, the American Consul advised Mr. Casanova to quit the Island immediately, if he cared for his life. Mr. Casanova for some time resisted the idea of going away from Cuba, and leaving behind his valuable estates and great interests, with no one to manage them properly and diligently, and then after so short a notice. Besides, he was guilty of no offence against the Spanish Government, and then he did not like to leave without a written testimonial that he had not done it of his own accord and convenience. The American Consul furnished Mr Casanova with the testimonial required, and he resolved upon going away at once, and laying his solemn protest and claim before the American Government at Washington.

27. Before leaving the Island of Cuba, Mr. Casanova, through the American Consul, demanded his passport, which he had handed to the proper officer when he landed in his way out from the United States in November of the previous year. But the American passport was not to be found anywhere in the Government offices, and so the City Governor furnished Mr. Casanova with a Spanish passport, not forgetting to express in it that Mr. Casanova was an American citizen. This passport is also filed in the State Department at Washington, to prove that Mr. Casanova did not flee from Cuba, that he was not subjected to any process of law at the time of his departure, and that the Spanish Government, after Mr. Casanova left, knowingly and willfully put an embargo to the property in Cuba, of an American citizen, when they could persecute him and oppress him no longer.

28. Mr. Casanova has always kept himself aloof from all entangling political questions while in the Island of Cuba. Again, he has taken no part whatsoever in the actual troubles of the land, although, as a Christian republican man, his sympathies are with the oppressed people who have been struggling manfully these three years for liberty and independence. In order to prove that Mr.

Casanova, there as well as here, has always tried his best to be neutral in the question at issue between the Spaniards and the Cubans, he has had filed in the State Department at Washington, a certificate furnished him by the Spanish Consul in Baltimore, Md., which Mr. Casanova thinks a very important official document, inasmuch as there it is admitted, among other things, "That he (the Spanish Consul) does not quite understand why the Spanish Government in Cuba have waged so relentless a persecution against Mr. I. Casanova."

29. In June of the same year, that is to say, two months after Mr. Casanova left the Island of Cuba, and the Spanish Government had raised the embargo laid upon his property, more than thirty civil guards and Spanish volunteers, headed by the Commissaries of Police of Bemba and Colon districts, made suddenly their appearance in the estate *Armonia*, under the pretence that they were looking for some boxes of arms that they said were buried beneath the sugar mill rollers. Of course, they were allowed to search every corner in the plantation, but the boxes could not be found; and on leaving the place they intimated that they would soon return and make a thorough search. Of this extraordinary event Mr. Casanova was duly adviced by mail.

30. The simply advice of what had just taken place in the Ingenio *Armonia* dreadfully alarmed Mr. Casanova, and for it he had a good reason. When the Spanish Government laid an embargo upon that very estate, they took care to discharge the employees left there by Mr. Casanova, and put a new set of men, of course Spaniards, the Government tools, devoted to its cause. This unnecessary change was undoubtedly done with an evil purpose in view. The new employees bore no good will to Mr. Casanova, and could not expect to have under their charge for a long time Mr. Casanova's estate. Mr. Casanova saw at once what the unexpected visit of the Commissaries of Police, civil guards, and volunteers meant. They had, or intended to have, any number of arms concealed somewhere in the plantation, in order to come by and by for them, and was once found to give out that they were deposited there by Mr. Casanova, his sons, or his men. With which the Spanish authorities probably expected to prove that

they were right in persecuting Mr. Casanova, his family, and property.

31. Almost sure that he had suspected right, Mr. Casanova hastened to Washington, and reported there the facts, and laid his protest before the American Government, to the effect that, if any arms were found in the Ingenio Armonia, they have been deposited there by the minions of the Spanish Government, to do harm to Mr. Casanova's character in Cuba. As a proof that the Spanish trick was well understood, it is the fact that as soon as they heard at head quarters in Havana of Mr. Casanova's protest, no more searches were carried out in his sugar plantation, the Spanish papers taking the hint at heart. In one of the issues of *El Diario de la Marina* at the time, the following lines may be read:—"Mr. Casanova has laid before the American Government a new protest against the Spanish Government, claiming indemnity. As to Mr. Casanova's protest, we have very little to say. That gentleman belongs to the number of obstinated fellows who grant themselves the right of making war on the Spanish Government by all means in their reach, generally the worst of all and most wicked, and they do not understand that that government may make a prudent use of its powers, and fulfill its duty, while it cares for the safety of the State. Were Mr. Casanova's nonsensical claims current coin, there would never exist a cordial understanding between two nations, as there would always be some subjects of either, natives or naturalized, who would give to themselves the pleasure of disturbing it."

32. In November of the same year, consequently upon the strictures of the Spanish paper, *La Voz de Cuba*, on Mr. Casanova, to whom it applied day after day the epithet of insurgent, of *insurrecto;* and upon a trustworthy advice that reached him from Cuba, to the effect that his sugar plantation, Armonia, was to be set on fire as soon as the dry season should come, and that to this end the Spanish Government were abusing Mr. Casanova, to keep up the hatred with which he was looked upon,—he had recourse again to reporting the facts to the State Department at Washington, with a copy of *La Voz de Cuba*, in which, as usual, Mr. Casanova was called bad names, *insurrecto* as well; and to complaining

of the Captain-General, because the press, being under his control, he, and no one else, should be responsible for the damage that might accrue to Mr. Casanova's property. About this complaint of Mr. Casanova, a despatch was sent to the American Consul at Havana, a fact, which being known by the Captain-General, the latter functionary saw the former long before the dry season came, and told him there was no ground for Mr. Casanova's fears. But be the Captain-General of Cuba right or wrong on this particular point, certain there is that there have not been wanting hints and real threats on the part of the Spanish press about what the Spaniards should do particularly to Mr. Casanova's property, and generally to all foreigner's property in Cuba. See, for example, the note at the end of these pages.

33. Anyway, Mr. Casanova's complaint was timely, inasmuch as his plantation has not been visited by Spanish officers ever since, and so far it is safe from fire. Besides, it seems that the Spanish press of Cuba has been intimidated into a wise silence about Mr. Casanova's property and name, although the *Cronista* of this city, over which the Captain-General has no control, has kept a scattering fire on the subject.

As when Mr. Casanova left the Island of Cuba, he did so with a written permit of the Spanish Government, and afterwards he obtained a good certificate from the Spanish Consul in Baltimore, as mentioned in paragraph 28th, he thought there could be no harm in his going back to Cuba, to see for himself about his own business, which was sorely neglected there, and, above all, to sell his sugar plantation, Armonia, for which the sum of $500,000 was proferred him by some Spanish merchants there. Though the money did not cover the real value of the estate, he concluded to sell it, as he was not allowed to attend to it personally.

Before definitely resolving upon going, Mr. Casanova went to Washington, and fully explained his case at the State Department, and asked whether, on account of the claims he had established against the Spanish Government, and on account of the letter of the American Consul, in which Mr. Casanova was advised to leave the Island, he might conveniently return there, under the guarantee and help of his Government. Mr. Casanova was told that the

State Department would readily furnish him with the required passport, but could not anticipate any protection, since this should be afforded him by the American Consul in Havana, and that for Mr. Casanova's greater security, he might obtain a safe-conduct from the Spanish Minister at Washington.

35. The Spanish Minister was then approached, and although he appeared at first to be willing to grant the safe-conduct, at last he refused, saying that he ought not to give it. This disappointment, notwithstanding, Mr. Casanova, over-anxious to sell his *Ingenio Armonia*, took his passport, had it countersigned by the Spanish Consul in New York, and embarked for Cuba on the 17th day of February 1871. What happened to him there, will be stated below.

1. Mr. Casanova left New York on the 17th of February, provided with the necessary passport from the U. S. Government, and countersigned by the Spanish Consul at New York, who charged him two dollars in gold for his services.

2. He arrived at Havana on the morning of the 24th, and remained on board the steamer until nine o'clock, when the necessary permit from the Captain-General came for his landing. He then went on shore with his baggage, which was strictly examined, and afterwards he was provided with a landing certificate from the Government to remain in the Island, for which he was charged $2.12\frac{1}{2}$ in gold, being a foreigner, and they kept his passport. He then went in his carriage to his daughter's home, where she and Mrs. Casanova awaited him at No. 40 Neptune Street, remaining with his family all of that day until half-past seven P.M., when two policemen appeared, and a third remained outside the front door and intimated his arrest, which he immediately obeyed, leaving his wife, who was sick in bed, and his daughter much alarmed and weeping for such unwarrantable proceedings.

3. Mr. Casanova inquired of the police where he was to be taken, and was answered that he was going to the Plaza de Armas, to the General's palace; but soon after starting, gave orders to the driver to take him to the *Machina:* this change attracted Mr. Casanova's attention, and inquired the reason for changing his mind, to which the man replied, that Mr. C. soon would know the cause.

4. They arrived at the *Machina*, or landing wharf, and here he was locked up within a railing with a sentinel, while the police walked up and down to the door; and about an hour afterwards entered the railing and told him, "Come with me, to go on board the steamer, by order of the Captain-General."

5. They left in a boat pulled by two men, accompanied by a policeman, who was left as a guard on board the steamer, by the Commissary of Police, although it was an American steamer, so that Mr. C. should not land again.

6. On going across the bay, the policeman asked him if he wanted to go on board the "City of Mexico," on which he had arrived, or on board the "Columbia," which was to sail for New York; and he answered him, that to spend the night he would prefer the former, and that next morning he should go to the latter, and they arrived alongside the "City of Mexico;" but although he did not find the captain, who was ashore, he was received on board, the Commissary of Police withdrawing, and leaving the guard to prevent his landing.

7. As the captain was not on board to ask him for paper and ink to write his protest, and communicate it to the Consul, Mr. Casanova wrote it with a pencil, and early next day he sent it to the Consul, who answered him immediately. The assertions in the protest were, among others, that the Spanish Government, in violation of international treaties with a friendly power, expelled from the Island a citizen without previous trial, nor any legal proceedings, compelling him to abandon completely the valuable property which he there possessed, and specially preventing him selling the sugar estate, "La Armonia," which he had agreed to sell, and that on account of his expulsion he could not execute the deed and carry out the sale, which was for the considerable sum of half a million of dollars, although this was not the true value of the estate, it being worth a great deal more.

8. On the 25th, in the morning, about seven o'clock, a Spanish friend of Mr. Casanova came on board; he being a trustworthy person, who belongs to the volunteer regiments—and after the customary salutation, told him to at once repair to the steamer "Columbia," if he wanted to save his life, as a plot was formed to arrest him in

the boat which was to carry him from one steamer to the other, the Spaniards not daring to do so on board the vessel, to prevent a conflict with the American Government; that on being taken ashore they would take him from the landing on pretence of bringing him before the Chief of Police, and on the way they would be met by a party of volunteers, who would commence to shout, "Viva Cuba libre! Death to Spain!" and they would then seize him, saying, "Here is the traitor Casanova," and have him shot. This alarming intelligence, although the man was to him very truthful, he had his doubts, which he noticed and said, "Believe me, and I hope you will be cautious, because you will understand the danger I am in if it is discovered, as I belong to the number of those who are to make the riot and shouting; and if you don't go to the other vessel at once, it may be impossible afterwards, as they will put a Government boat along side the stairs of the 'Columbia' to prevent the approach of any boat until your arrest is effected, as if they don't succeed in capturing you in the transter boat, they would effect it in the Government boat before you go on board the 'Columbia.'" And he left.

9. Still uncertain what to believe, Mr. C. followed the advice, and at once left in a boat of the consignees that was alongside with the freight lighters, and which service was done by one of the clerks who was on board, to whom Mr. C. begged the favor, although he paid the boatman for his trouble, and left the guard, telling him he was going on board the "Columbia," which was very near the "City of Mexico," and to which he did not object.

10. In about half-an-hour, a Government boat arrived alongside, and although many boats were arriving, none were allowed to approach, until in one of them, the Commissary of Police, who arrested Mr. Casanova the previous day, arrived, and on seeing him on board, shouted out, "Come down, and come with me to return you to the 'City of Mexico,' on board which steamer the Government ordered you to leave;" to which he replied, that the officer had fulfilled his orders, and Mr. Casanova had obeyed them by re-embarking; and as the order did not express the name of the vessel, and being an American citizen, and the "Columbia" leaving very soon, he had a right to continue the voyage. In this discussion

they spent a few minutes, he urging Mr. Casanova to go with him, and he refusing, until a boat arrived with his daughter and sister, who were coming to bid him farewell; but the Commissary ordered the boat to retreat, and after many entreaties of his daughter to be allowed him to come to speak to her on board the boat, which he did promptly; but as soon as he jumped on board the boat, the policemen ordered the men to shove off, and intimated his arrest, to which he replied by jumping back on the stairs of the "Columbia," and shouting:—"I am under my flag! Viva Washington!" And then addressed all present to be witness to the persecution carried on against him by the Spanish Government; and he went on board the steamer, followed by the Commissary of Police and another man, who insisted on taking him ashore: and although the captain of the vessel was ashore, the officer in charge objected, and thus ended the scene, which convinced Mr. C. beyond doubt that all his friend had told him was true.

11. Mr. C's. protest and communication to the Consul only had reference to what occurred on the 24th, and nothing about what happened on the 25th, on account of his departure.

12. It is necessary to notice that Mr. C's. daughter, on going to bid him farewell, had with her his valise with clothes, and they did not allow it to pass, keeping it until the last moment, when it was sent on board, and he found it had been ransacked, and missed $1000 in U. S. currency he had, belonging to his wife.

13. The passport, which was very necessary to get his passage ticket from the consignees, was denied him, and the Government kept it; and if it had not been for the knowledge the Captain had of the injustice done to Mr. C. he would have denied him a passage, and compelled him to return on shore, where he would have surely lost his life.

Note.—It is necessary to add to the information given by Mr. Casanova's friend, that the cause of his expulsion and re-embarkation was originated by the Chief of Police, who, as soon as he heard of his landing, went to see the Captain-General, and informed him that Mr. Casanova was the greatest filibuster, the father of Mrs. Villaverde, and that he had heavy claims against Spain, and that he was only returning to the Island to effect the

sale of the "Armonia" estate for half-a-million dollars, which sum he had no doubt would be spent in armed expeditions against Cuba, this information being sufficient for the Government to give the order of expulsion.

NOTE 2d.—Not having used the clothes that the valise contained during the day that Mr. C. spent in Havana, and not having even opened it during the day, he can not assure that the loss of the *thousand dollars* that he missed from his valise was originated by the Spaniards, who snatched the said valise from the boat as stated, and who kept it with them for some hours. Having made a voyage of six days going to Havana, and the lock of the valise being very easily opened without a key, perhaps the *thousand dollars* were stolen on board in his trip to Havana. In such uncertainty he makes no claim about the said amount, and he only mentions it as an unlucky part of his trip.

NOTE 3.—The Spanish paper, *El Cronista*, published in this city, in its issue of the 1st of March, 1871, speaking of the last trip to Havana, of Mr. Casanova, says: "It is plain that he must be a daring man, who does what Mr. Inocencio Casanova did. With the greatest intrepidity he embarked in New York and went to Havana. The authorities there forced him back and they have done right. The Spanish character does not quite agree with so much carelessness, and it might have shared much worse with Mr. Inocencio, had he remained many hours in the Spanish territory. If he is a citizen of this land (U. S.) he has no business to go to the country he has offended with his disloyalty and abuse."

In the same paper of the 8th of March, the following remarks occur: "Mr. I. Casanova has made a great fuss, saying through the newspapers that he had been to Cuba in order to receive the net proceeds of the sale of his sugar plantation *Armonia*; *five hundred thousand dollars*, nothing less. God help us. It was not a bad *harmony* that which portended to us the last trip of Mr. Inocencio. Again, a more important deduction we make out of that piece of news, namely, that if the *Spanish volunteers were so wicked as those who calumniate them, it was long ago since the sugar plantation of Mr. Inocencio Casanova would have been purified in the*

SACRED FIRE of our country, setting thus in harmony, intentions and doings."

"What a pity that these $500,000 should come to such hands!"

NOTE 4.—After writing the above, Mr. Casanova has received a letter from Havana, dated the 1st of April, 1871, in which he is informed that on the 28th or 29th of March, a large fire occurred on his plantation "*La Armonia*," in consequence of which one-half of the cane fields were burnt, and the sugar factory barely escaped destruction, the conflagration having extended to its very foot.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 016 102 669 4